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board officials and employees and members of local boards of health. Five or six meetings a year will be held for the presentation and discussion of papers. Most of the prominent health board officials of the state have expressed themselves as strongly in favor of the association, which promises to grow rapidly in membership and influence.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Ernest V. Cowell, the University of California receives a bequest of \$750,000. It is for a hospital, a gymnasium and an athletic stadium, each to cost \$250,000.

THE Nebraska legislature has passed a bill, which the governor has signed, appropriating \$100,000 with which to begin the development of the campus of the College of Medicine of the university, in Omaha. The issue presented in the legislature was whether or not the state was ready to begin the development of a complete medical college plant, and the decision was affirmative, by a narrow margin in the house and by a wide margin in the senate.

DR. ELMER ELLSWORTH BROWN, U. S. Commissioner of Education, has been elected chancellor of New York University.

BRUCE PAYNE, Ph.D. (Columbia, 1905), professor of educational psychology in the University of Virginia, has been appointed president of the George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville. The old Peabody College has been disbanded and President Payne will have a free field in constructing the new one, which is to have new grounds, buildings and faculty, and one million and a half additional endowment.

PROFESSOR H. H. NEWMAN, chairman of the school of zoology, University of Texas, has resigned to accept an associate professorship of zoology at the University of Chicago. All appointments in zoology at Texas have been made and the details will be made public in a subsequent number of this JOURNAL.

DR. CLINTON R. STAUFFER, assistant professor of geology at the School of Mining,

Kingston, Canada, has been appointed associate professor of geology in Western Reserve University.

DR. J. J. LAUB, of Heidelberg, has been appointed professor of theoretical physics and geophysics in the University of La Plata.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A recent letter by Professor Chamberlin in your journal entitled "Reform of the Calendar" has re-interested me in the subject and suggested the publication of another, and, it is hoped, more correct view of the subject. A perusal of the article "Calendar" in *Encyclopædia Britannica* will suggest arguments in its favor; as to recent articles on the subject, time and inclination are lacking for their reading and the risk is run of anticipation on conflict.

As the greater part of the eighteen folio pages in the *Encyclopædia* is under the head "Reformation of the Calendar" or treats of intricate peculiarities calling for reform, the legitimate effect of the article is the conclusion that what is needed and possible is not a reformation, but a

##### *Simplification of the Calendar*

Let us then state this as a problem and attempt a solution. The *Encyclopædia's* definition may be condensed to read "A calendar is a method of meting out time into hours, days, etc., for ordinary use." It is therefore a table of measures which establishes certain units of time and defines the relations between them, and this must be so done as to facilitate the transaction of business.

A fortunate solution must depend largely on the units employed and Professor Woolhouse gives, as he must, the *solar day* and the *solar year* as two natural and indispensable units, mentioning later the *month* as a natural but not indispensable one. Owing to these units being natural, they are incommensurable and simplicity requires the smallest possible number of such units. It would therefore seem advisable to exclude the month from any controlling influence in the calendar.